

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims shall replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

We claim:

1. (Original) A frame saw system for cutting a block of granite, marble, or masonry material, comprising:
 - a plurality of spaced apart, substantially parallel blades connected to a frame; and
 - at least one support structure of unifying material supplied perpendicularly across the blades and adhering to at least one of the blades for keeping the blades in fixed relative positions;
 - wherein the support structure is capable of being removed from the frame saw system as the blades are engaged in cutting.
2. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 1, wherein the support structure forms an integral cohesive mass with the saw blades.
3. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 1, wherein the support structure comprises a polymeric foam.
4. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 3, wherein the polymeric foam includes a material selected from the group of a polyurethane, a polyethylene, a polystyrene, a polyvinyl, an acrylate, a cellophane, and a cellulosic material.
5. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 1, wherein the support structure is applied in a fluidic form and cures to form a cohesive mass bonding to at least one of the blades.

6. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 1, wherein the blades are connected on both ends to the frame by tensioning rods.
7. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 1, further comprising clamps which contact the two outermost blades of the parallel blades in the frame saw.
8. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 7, wherein the clamps comprise a plate, bolts tightened against the plate, and adjustable vertical mounts.
9. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 1, wherein the blades comprise superabrasive-containing segments.
10. (Original) A frame saw system for cutting a block of granite, marble, or masonry material, comprising:
 - a plurality of spaced apart, substantially parallel blades connected to a frame;
 - a plurality of spacers located longitudinally between the blades wherein the spaces keep the blades in fixed relative positions; and
 - clamps which contact the two outermost blades of the parallel blades in the frame saw.
11. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 10, wherein the clamps comprise a plate, bolts tightened against the plate, and adjustable vertical mounts.
12. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 10, wherein the spacers comprise a polymeric foam.
13. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 10, wherein the blades are connected on both ends to the frame by tensioning rods.
14. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 10, wherein the blades comprise superabrasive-containing segments.

15. (Original) A method for cutting a block of granite, marble, or like material, comprising the steps of:

providing a frame saw comprising a plurality of spaced apart blades;

positioning a support structure of a unifying material perpendicularly across the blade of the frame saw, wherein the support structure is adhered to at least one of the blades for keeping the blades in fixed relative positions;

subjecting the block to a sawing operation using the frame saw; and

at least substantially removing the support structure as the blades become submerged in the block.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the positioning step comprises injecting an expandable polymeric foam mixture in between the saw blades, whereby the expansion of the foam keeps the blades in fixed relative positions.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the foam comprises a polyurethane foam.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the blades are connected on both ends to a frame by tensioning rods.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein a compressive force is applied perpendicularly to the parallel blades.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the blades comprise superabrasive-containing segments.

21. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the sawing operation comprises using a slurry of steel shot and lime dispersed in water.

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22. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the sawing operation comprises using cooling water.

23-36. (Cancelled).